

tax base. There are no homes there. And the people certainly have to come back to bring back the communities.

In my opinion, it is up to the Federal Government. I know we are trying, but we have to do a little bit better. It is our moral responsibility to help these people. We never know when a disaster will happen in our own back yard, so I hope the American people do not forget the people of Hurricane Katrina. There is still much work to be done.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DREIER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4808, UNFAIR CHINESE AUTOMOTIVE TARIFF EQUALIZATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on March 1, Mr. KILDEE of Michigan, a Member of Congress, joined me in a bill, H.R. 4808, which would prevent imports of passenger cars from China until the United States and Chinese tariffs on these items are equal.

Mr. Speaker, I think we all know that our trade deficit with China is well over \$200 billion. We all agree that we live in a world where we have to work with each other and trade with each other. The problem is that under the current agreement, these cars that will be coming in from China put us at a disadvantage, our workers and our car companies.

Let me just share with you that if we ship a car from America to be sold in China, the Chinese Government slaps a 28 percent tariff on American-made cars. If those Chinese cars come into America, we charge them a 2.5 percent tariff on their cars. That is not a level playing field.

I think China has enough advantages, quite frankly. They manipulate their currency, violate intellectual property rights, utilize heavy equipment, government subsidies, pay their workers just pennies a day, and they do not have to worry about the labor and environmental standards that Americans must abide by. The tariffs just give China another unfair advantage, an advantage that threatens the job of every worker in the United States auto industry.

I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join us in this fairness issue. That is all this is about, fairness, because our workers work hard to produce a quality product. When we send it to China, they, again, put a 28 percent tariff on our cars going to China, while we only put a 2.5 percent tariff on passenger cars coming to America.

Mr. Speaker, there is something else that we fail to realize. With that \$200 billion trade deficit, in *The Wall Street Journal* this week it said: "China defends outlay to increase by 17.4 percent, the most in 4 years." The Chinese are making money off the American people, and they are taking that money and, in many cases, they are putting it into their military.

Now, I am not so concerned about China and America going to war, but I do know this: China is trying to build one of the strongest militaries we have ever seen in this world, and what they want to do is to dominate Southeast Asia.

What Mr. KILDEE and I are asking for is just a simple matter of fairness. If we are going to sell their cars, let us charge them the same tariff they are going to charge us to sell our cars in China. I would hope that my colleagues, both Republican and Democrat, would join us in this effort. This, again, is nothing but an issue of fairness.

In fact, the Economic Policy Institute has said that since 1989 through the year 2003 we have lost 1.5 million jobs to the Chinese. Here, again, on this floor tonight I am announcing H.R. 4808, a bill introduced by a Democrat and Republican, that says that we need to charge the same tariff for American cars going to China as Chinese cars coming to America. We should all pay the same. That is a simple matter of fairness.

So tonight, Mr. Speaker, I shall be speaking on this issue quite a few times, but I will tell you that we need to be aware of what is happening to the jobs that have been going overseas, and particularly those jobs going to China. So I hope tonight that my colleagues will look at the letter that is signed by Mr. KILDEE and myself asking our colleagues in the House to join us on H.R. 4808. All it is is a tariff fairness issue.

I will close by saying this again: American cars that go to China to be sold have to pay a 28 percent tariff, Chinese cars coming to America later on this year will pay only a 2.5 percent tariff. That is not fair to the American workers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform; to please bless their families; and, God, please continue to bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IN SEARCH OF A COMPETENT CONSERVATIVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, last week, a number of Americans were able to see the President on the videotape on Katrina and see also what has happened down in New Orleans since that time, or the lack of action there. We also witness every day the civil war that is engulfing Iraq and a policy of failure to bring stability to Iraq, the chaos that has engulfed our Medicare prescription drug plan, and also the flare-up over our port security and selling major assets of America's infrastructure to foreign countries.

In 2000, President Bush ran as a compassionate conservative. At this point, I would settle for a competent conservative. From Iraq to Medicare to port security to the deficit to Katrina, this administration has mismanaged the situation to the point where even die-hard supporters are acknowledging their incompetence. And this Congress has been a rubber stamp to the administration's policies and has refused to do its job, which is oversight, on every one of these issues.

On Iraq, we have \$10 billion out of \$480 billion totally missing. Not one hearing about what happened to the \$10 billion. Nobody has asked a single question. Nobody can account for it. We have soldiers over there without Kevlar vests, where parents are left to literally do bake sales to raise the money for their children so they can have the protection that their government and their taxpayers expect and are responsible for, yet nothing. We have literally members of the armed services running around like scrap metal collectors trying to solder their Humvees, yet nobody has asked a single question as to how that happened; why is that happening?

We have Paul Bremer, the President's ambassador, who now writes a book and says that he had asked for 500,000, or doubling the size of the troop level; yet for 3 years the President of the United States said nobody ever asked for more troops. If they want more troops, we will send more troops. General Abizaid and Paul Bremer, the President's ambassador, have said that he had asked for more troops, and neither the Secretary of Defense nor the President of the United States acknowledged that memo. Yet what do we have? Nobody is holding them accountable. Nobody is holding anyone accountable in the administration.

We have a great deal of incompetence. We are at \$480 billion in Iraq, with 2,300 Americans, our fellow citizens, having lost their lives. Well over 15,000 are wounded, permanently many of them, yet not a single question of what happened here. What is the competency here?

Now, take a look at this on Medicare. It is not just isolated to Iraq. We have now had that policy, and that policy has run its course. We now have a civil war that the American people find themselves in the middle of, between the Sunnis, the Shiites and the Kurds all fighting each other, and nobody has